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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/612,548	07/02/2003	Chris L. Willis	20030001-US	3563
42716	7590	03/30/2005	EXAMINER	
MAINE & ASMUS P. O. BOX 3445 NASHUA, NH 03061			KIM, ELLEN E	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2874	

DATE MAILED: 03/30/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/612,548

Applicant(s)

WILLIS, CHRIS L.

Examiner

Ellen Kim

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 12 January 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 and 22 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 1-12 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 13-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 22 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 11/06/03.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date: _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

This is responsive to Applicant's responsive filed on 1/12/2005.

Claim 22 is objected to because of the following informalities: Applicant refers the claim 13 as a method claim, claim 13 is however an apparatus claim. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 13-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being clearly anticipated by Yokomachi et al [USPAT 5,483,608].

Yokomachi et al disclose an optical switch for switching plural optical fibers and the method comprising:

A platform 20 [fig. 15] that pivots about an axis of rotation, and having a range of motion that includes a stowed position and a deployed position;

A hard stop 19c [as shown in fig. 15] proximate the platform 20, thereby defining the deployed position;

A motor 19 having an actuator arm [element between 19 and 19c]; and

A push/pull spring 32 [fig. 15] operatively coupling the platform to a motor assembly, and adapted to preload the platform against the hard stop, thereby holding the platform in the first position despite opposing forces.

With respect to claims 14 and 15, Yokomachi et al show in Fig. 27 a controller 31, which commands deployment and non-deployment of the optic.

With respect to claims 16, 17, 19, and 20, Yokomachi et al show in fig. 1 a sensor 13, and a linear encoder 14.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1- 12 are allowed.

The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: the prior art does not disclose or suggest an optic switching system comprising all the specific components with the specific combination including a motor having an actuator arm coupled to its shaft, and a push/pull spring operatively coupling the platform to the actuator arm of the motor as set forth in claims.

Claim 22 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: the prior art does not disclose or suggest an optic switching system comprising all the specific components with the specific combination including a clip adapted to

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couple around the elongated strip, thereby forming the strip into an open-ended loop and enabling the spring like and flexible qualities of the strip to push and preload the platform against the hard stop as set forth in claim.

Conclusion

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

For all official patent application related correspondence for organizations reporting to the Commissioner of Patents:

- Correspondence that is transmitted by facsimile must be directed to the central facsimile number, (703) 872-9306.

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Further references of interest are cited on Form PLO-892, which is attachment to this office action.

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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ellen Kim whose telephone number is (571) 272-2349.

The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Thursday.

Ellen E. Kim

Primary Examiner

March 28, 2005/EK

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ellen Kim", is positioned to the right of the typed name.